

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01304 280653Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 230432Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5162

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1304

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON PLANNED CAIRNS' MIDDLE EAST TRIP

REF: CANBERRA 1262

1. SUMMARY: TREASURY OFFICIAL PROVIDES PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON PLANNED CAIRNS TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST ON UNDERSTANDING IT WILL BE HELD STRICTLY WITHIN USG. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PLANNED MARCH VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON PLANNED MIDDLE EAST TRIP OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND TREASURER CAIRNS (REFTEL) FROM JACK GARRETT, DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY. GARRETT WAS AUTHORIZED BY CAIRNS TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH US ONLY ON FIRM UNDERSTANDING IT WILL BE CLOSELY HELD WITHIN USG ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

3. BEGIN XGDS-1 - PLANS, WHICH ARE STILL HIGHLY TENTATIVE, NOW CALL FOR A TRIP OF APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS, STARTING AROUND MARCH 12 OR 13, WITH VISITS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CANBER 01304 280653Z

KUWAIT, IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND POSSIBLY ABU DHABI. PRIMARY

PURPOSE WILL BE TO EXPLORE GENERALLY LONG-TERM AVAILABILITY OF INVESTMENT FUNDS IN CONTEXT OF TOTAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND INDIVIDUAL OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES VISITED, ALL OF WHICH GARRETT NOTES HAVE COMMON POLITICAL OUTLOOK. ANCILLARY PURPOSE OF TRIP WILL BE TO EXPLAIN TO HOS GOVERNMENTS GOA ATTITUDES, RULES AND POLICIES ON INWARD-BOUND FOREIGN INVESTMENT, POINTING OUT HOW GOA DIFFERENTIATES IN ITS TREATMENT OF PROPOSED FOREIGN EQUITY IN CONTRAST TO DEBT CAPITAL FROM ABROAD. ANOTHER TOPIC WILL BE POSSIBLE FUTURE "AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS," ALTHOUGH GARRETT HAD NO DETAILS ON THIS. GARRETT EMPHASIZED THAT TRIP WILL NOT RPT NOT BE FOLLOW-UP TO RECENT GOA TRADE MISSION TO AREA AND WILL NOT RPT NOT BE A SHOPPING EXPEDITION. PURPOSE IS LONG-TERM EXPLORATION OF FUTURE FINANCING PROSPECTS NOT IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS ON ANY SPECIFICS.

4. AGRICULTURE MINISTER WRIEDT WILL ACCOMPANY CAIRNS, AS WILL STAFF LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM DEPARTMENTS OF TREASURY (INCLUDING GARRETT), AGRICULTURE, OVERSEAS TRADE AND PERHAPS OTHERS. GARRETT COULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THAT SIR LENOX HEWITT, SECRETARY (PERMANENT HEAD), DEPT. OF MINERALS AND ENERGY, WOULD ACCOMPANY. END XGDS-1.

5. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS OF TRIP AS POSSIBLE. GARRETT SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PLANS FOR MIDDLE EAST VISIT IN MARCH, AND WE SUSPECT CAIRNS MAY HAVE SOME THOUGHT OF TRYING TO MEET SECRETARY IF THEIR PATHS CROSS. WE KNOW OF NO ISSUES CAIRNS MIGHT WANT TO RAISE WITH SECRETARY AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO RECOMMEND SECRETARY MAKE ANY SPECIAL EFFORT TO SEE CAIRNS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE SUCH INFORMATION ON SECRETARY'S EXPECTED ITINERARY AS DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO AUSTRALIANS. WE OWE THEM AN ANSWER ABOUT SECRETARY'S TRIP. HARROP

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